

# Kenyon College

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The Kenyon Collegian

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### Kenyon Collegian - August 20, 2011

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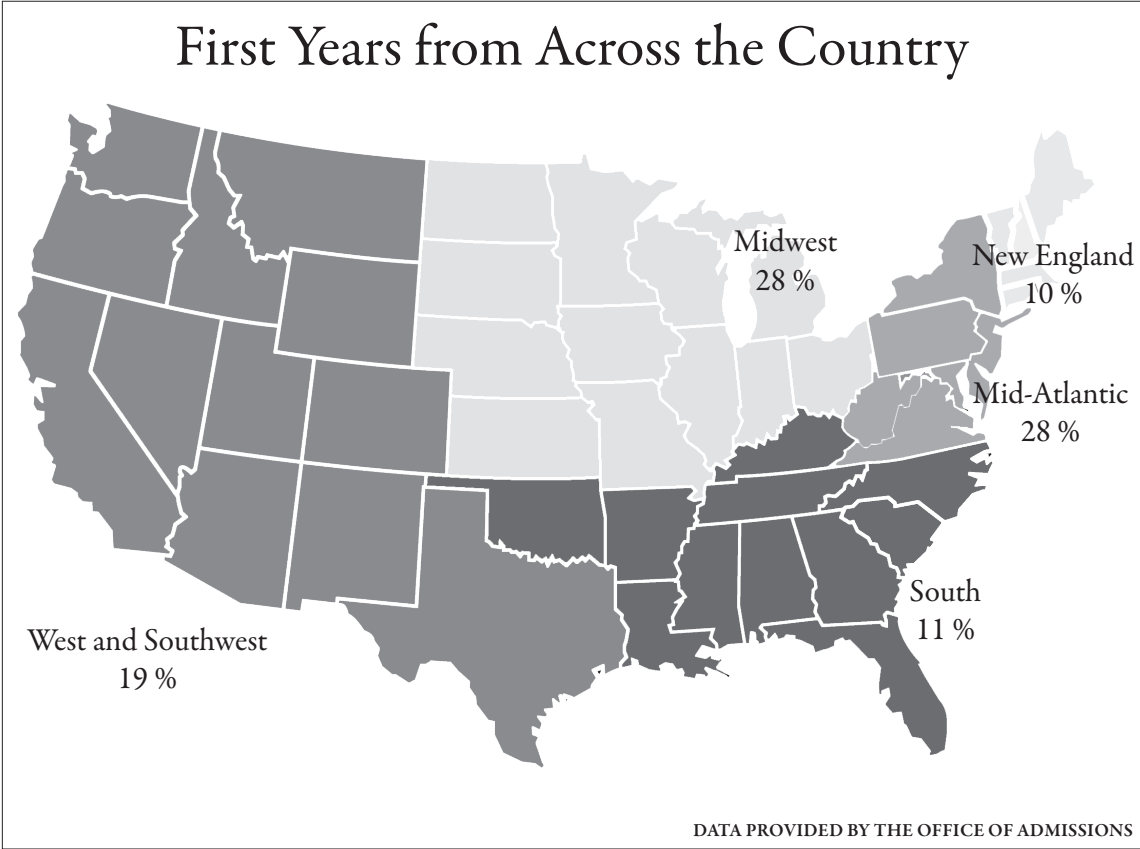
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# Kenyon Welcomes Class of 2015



MARIKA GARLAND  
*News Editor*

This year’s incoming class represents the most diverse applicant pool and one of the smartest classes that the College has ever admitted, Director of Admissions Darryl Uy said. Kenyon has also become more competitive, as last year’s acceptance rate was 39 percent, while this year’s was down to 33 percent.

The rate of enrollment for accepted students has increased from 30 percent to 34 percent over the past year. Due to the lower acceptance rate, however, class size has decreased from about 480 last year to 472 this year. “We wanted a class of 465, so we’re a little overenrolled but not as overenrolled as last year,” Uy said.

Thirty-nine percent of incoming first-year students had high school GPAs of 4.0 and above, and 60 percent were in the top 10 percent of their high school classes, according to Uy. This class’ academic success is

not the only characteristic that sets them apart, though. “They’re really deep, philosophical thinkers,” Uy said. “They’re just really compassionate and thoughtful and aware of the world around them, I think more so than some of the other classes that we’ve admitted.”

As a part of this awareness, many incoming students have “green thumbs,” meaning that they have shown an interest in the environment, sustainability and conservation, Uy said. Another unique quality of the class of 2015, when compared with other classes, is the variety of musical instruments students play, including the ukulele, the fiddle, the mandolin and the banjo.

The geographical distribution of applications for the incoming class has changed as well. “We had a huge increase in applications from California,” Uy said. “That was partly because of the education system and funding that’s happening in California right

now and because it’s kind of falling apart.” In the end, approximately 200 more students from California applied this year than the year before. International applications also increased.

In addition to the incoming first-year students, the College has admitted 18 transfer students this year. “That’s the largest transfer cohort that we’ve ever admitted,” Uy said. “We knew after talking to a bunch of transfer students that they wanted a bigger cohort, so that was one thing already on our mind.” Applications from transfer students were also stronger this year, according to Uy. These students come from a variety of schools, ranging from other small liberal arts colleges to large research universities to community colleges.

For all new Kenyon students, Uy said he hopes they take the time to explore and be open to new possibilities. “Kenyon is kind of a magical place that’s going to surprise you as long as you’re open to it,” he said.

## Mount Vernon Businesses Join K-Card Program

ERIN MERSHON  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Popular Mount Vernon Indian restaurant Henry’s Copper Curry now accepts payments through Kenyon’s K-Card program. It is the second Mount Vernon vendor to join; CVS has accepted the K-Card since 2009.

The addition of Henry’s “gives you another option for real food, something different from the Market or the Deli or MiddleGround,” Chief Business Officer Mark Kohlman said.

Dairy Queen has also expressed interest in signing up for the pro-

gram, according to Kohlman. The ice cream shop already offers a 10 percent discount to students, faculty and staff who present a Kenyon ID.

“I spoke with the manager this morning, and they are signing up,” Kohlman said. “They just need to do the application on their end and get it worked out. It may be a couple of weeks before they get it up and running.”

These three Mount Vernon vendors join a long list of Gambier restaurants and businesses that accept the K-Card, including the Kenyon College Bookstore, Xtraction in the

Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC), The Village Market, The Kenyon Inn, CVS in Mount Vernon, The Village Inn, MiddleGround and the Gambier Deli. Various laundry facilities on campus and the vending machines in Gund Commons and Olin Library also accept the card.

Kohlman did not think many more Mount Vernon restaurants would sign up for the program.

“When I hear from students about places that they like, I’ll talk to those merchants,” he said. “Otherwise, I haven’t had a good response from other people in Mount Vernon.”

## Bookstore’s New Website Improves Textbook Comparison Shopping

MARA POTTERSMITH  
*Chief Copy Editor*

The Kenyon College Bookstore has added a one-stop textbook price comparison website to the services it offers in another of its efforts to make textbook shopping easier for students.

The new website, called Verba, “allows you to look at many options all in one search,” Bookstore Manager Jim Huang said. A student who clicks on a class for this coming semester can see “the textbook, a link to the electronic version of the book, a link to the rental version, the Kenyon Bookstore’s price for the book” and prices from many different online vendors such as Amazon, he said.

“We know that students are shopping for books everywhere,” Huang said. “And you should. You should certainly consider your options and look at everything carefully.” He hopes to facilitate students’ willingness to ask him and other Bookstore employees for help when it comes to choosing between purchasing options. “What we wanted to do is just make it easier. We want to make it so you come to us first.”

The Bookstore’s other textbook options include electronic textbooks and the textbook rental system. Huang noted that those options can be useful in certain situations but warned that students should be careful before deciding to jump into either one. Digital “is certainly good in many situations, but ... I’m talking about making sure you get the right thing,” he said. “It’s very easy to make a mistake in digital. If you’ve committed to a six-month license and it turns out you need it for 24 months, then you’ve lost your money.”

As for textbook rental, “I would actually say the same thing,” Huang said. “Last year was the first time we

did rental, and what we observed is that students could often save money if they were using a text for one semester, but if they had to do a rental for a full-year class, that ended up costing more.”

Huang advised students to keep an eye out for the Bookstore’s guaranteed buy-back tags. With those books, he said, “You’re going to be better off buying the book and selling it back at the end of the semester. It’ll be cheaper.” The tags will go up over this weekend.

Considering the newfound breadth of options, Huang said he hopes students will come to trust the Bookstore as a reliable source of both books and information. “Folks have a stereotype of the college bookstore jacking up prices outrageously,” he said. “Now, the fact is, there are some other vendors that charge less on some books some of the time. But what I want folks to see and understand is that ... across the entire range of 1,100 titles that we are supporting ... that really, the differences, on the whole, are not really that big. There are plenty of cases where we’re actually cheaper than Amazon.”

Though some books do cost more at the Bookstore, Huang emphasized the convenience of walking in and purchasing on the spot as a worthy way to make up for price comparisons.

Huang considers the Bookstore’s primary objective to be the ability to provide students with as many options as possible. “The world of textbooks is ... I would say, right now, a nightmare,” he said. “It’s so confusing, so many things going on. We spend 360-some days a year looking at these issues, all of these prices. What I would say to everybody is: let us help you figure this out.”

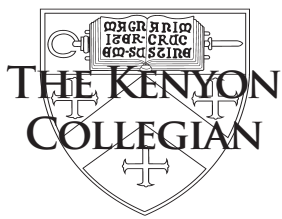
Visit Verba here: <http://kenyon.verbacompare.com>.



DAVID HOYT

The Kenyon College Bookstore prepares for the beginning of textbook sales.





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*The Kenyon Collegian* reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The *Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or less. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. *The Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.

# First-Rate First Year Courses



SARAH KAHWASH  
*Opinions Editor*

For you first years, the sweltering August days of orientation will surely bring a jumble of things foreign and exciting: tiring move-ins, an onslaught of information, amusing performances, perhaps a few awkward moments and plenty of chances to meet the people who will shape your Kenyon experience.

With all that's going on around you, don't neglect an oft-forgotten aspect of college life: the classes. Some of you have an academic plan in mind, maybe even a list of classes to check out, but in reality, arranging a schedule based solely on short descriptions and unfamiliar professor names can be tough. Kenyon's curriculum is renowned for its engaging courses and inspiring professors, and students often discover courses that define their semesters, determine their majors and shake their worldviews. You will soon see this for yourself, but to give you

a preview, the *Collegian* has compiled a list of first-year classes you might want to check out.

#### In the Fine Arts...

*Introduction to the Theater (a.k.a. Baby Drama)*

"Baby Drama" is one of the most popular classes for first-year students and upperclassmen alike. But if you aren't destined to be the world's next Marlon Brando, have no fear. This class is not just about acting. "It was a great foundation for theater in general, especially playwriting. It's not like you're forced to go onstage and act for a grade; it's mostly about being creative," Raquel Zaroni '14 said. The class is meant to be taken seriously. "I learned a lot," Zaroni said, "but do not take it for an easy 'A.'"

#### Photography I

Were you meaning to take an art class in high school but never got around to it? Taking advantage of Kenyon's wide range of studio art classes may be worth your time. Jordan Rhyne '13 took Photography I and described the experience as "difficult but worthwhile. It's a big time commitment, but everyone should take a studio art class."

#### In the Natural Sciences...

*Good Nukes, Bad Nukes*

Physics often gets a bad rap for being difficult, but

don't be so quick to discredit the subject as a whole. There are no prerequisites for "Good Nukes, Bad Nukes" and as the Kenyon website describes it, the class "is designed to give each student the scientific knowledge necessary to understand and participate in public discussions of nuclear issues." So whether you plan to work for NASA or simply detested high school physics, "Good Nukes, Bad Nukes" could be your ticket to both a credit fulfilled and an interesting morning.

#### In the Social Sciences...

*Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*

When studying a new subject, learning the basics and the introductory terminology can be tedious. Cultural Anthropology puts a twist on the subject for its beginners. "It started off with the basics of anthropology, but then we learned to apply that to different tribes and cultures," Katy Siegel '14 said. Projects and assignments vary among professors, but Siegel had classmates in other sections who were asked to observe their peers as they left a party. "That was an interesting application of the material to our lives," she said.

#### In the Humanities...

*Classical Islam*

Religious studies is often

a new subject for incoming students, many of whom have never studied theology or specific religions in a classroom setting. The first year is a good time to gain exposure to new belief systems that vary from your own. "Not only did I learn an incredible amount about a religion that is essential to know about in today's world, but I learned about myself — and honestly, how to be a better person," Tyann Jacobs '14 said.

#### Intensive Introductory Languages

While placing out of the language requirement is an option for all first-year students, don't be so quick to overlook Kenyon's distinguished introductory language programs. The modern languages and literatures department offers intensive classes in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. "I enjoyed taking Italian," Tess Hilliard '14 said. "People are often intimidated by the time commitment, like with AT [Apprentice Teacher] sessions, but the truth is those sessions really help. A classroom full of students is a more conducive environment to speaking the language than listening to a professor. You get more practice." And do not forget about the classics department, which offers Latin and Greek.

## Welcome Class of 2015!

You've probably already heard all the advice about college that your parents, siblings, friends and check-out clerks could throw at you. But since we've experienced our own share of successes and mistakes at Kenyon, we thought we'd add in our own two cents. Here are a few Kenyon-specific dos and don'ts to guide you through the following few weeks:

Don't forget your shower flip flops.  
Don't study on a Friday night (finals weeks excluded).  
Don't put your CAs in a tough position.  
Don't engage in hall-cest.  
Don't be heartbroken if your high school love doesn't last.  
Don't try to prove anything.  
Don't feel like you have to get your requirements out of the way immediately.  
Don't treat Phling like prom.  
Don't start stressing about comps for another three years.  
Don't spend too much time online or on the phone with friends from high school.  
Don't earn a nickname.  
Don't trust the Kenyon website's list of lingo.  
Don't be afraid to ask for help.  
Don't steal other people's bikes.  
Don't constantly compare Kenyon to other schools.

Do visit your professors during office hours.  
Do use the KAC. It's the only time you'll have free access to such wonderful facilities.  
Do make friends outside your hall.  
Do vacuum your dorm room.  
Do try the ice cream at the Bookstore.  
Do go hiking in the BFEC.  
Do tread carefully on Middle Path in the winter.  
Do buy donuts and pies from the Amish.  
Do use the Kokosing Gap Trail.  
Do join as many activities as you can.  
Do leave your dorm room door open.  
Do be nice to College employees.  
Do attend as many guest lectures as you can.  
Do your reading before Sunday night.  
Do make friends with upperclassmen.

And most importantly, do like the *Collegian's* Facebook page for breaking campus news, investigative reports and lively features. Good Luck!

### PAID ADVERTISEMENT



## Library Game Night

Play video games on big screens, walk on the life-sized Kenyonopoly board, and play other board games with friends. Enjoy free food and prizes! The entire community is welcome.

Friday, August 26  
7:00 - 10:00 pm

## First Year First Impressions

"The most interesting and friendly people I've ever met."  
- Asha McAllister '15

"It's the best place in the world. Every moment has been unbelievable."  
- Alex Britt '15

"Everyone smiles when you walk past."  
- Dylan Kaye '15

"Green."  
- Sam Howard '15

"It feels like home."  
- Kaitlyn Power '15

"I can be myself here."  
- Issa Polstein '15

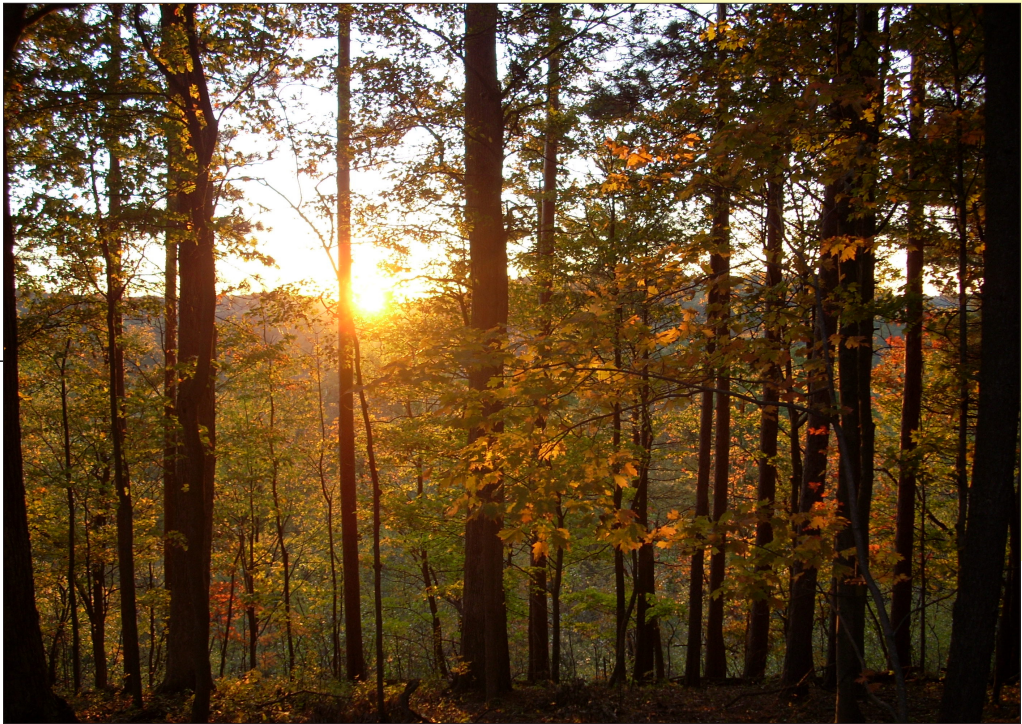


## MISADVENTURES OF A KENYON FIRST YEAR

IT'S THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE.

BY BEN ROS





Taking your special someone to Sunset Point behind is a must for your Kenyon bucket list. It is suggested that couples interested in visiting make some noise on their way over, so as not to interrupt any visitors already there.



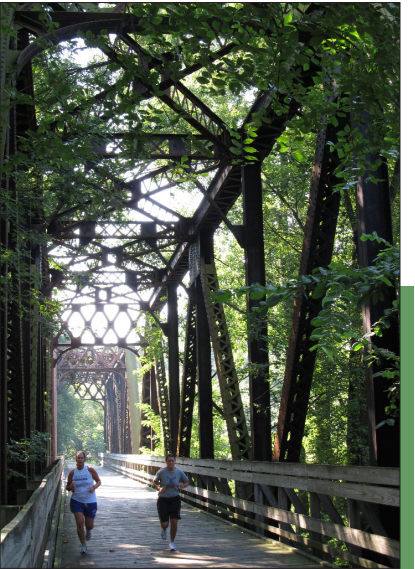
(Left) If you enjoy the constant sound of ringing church bells, then you’ve come to the right village. The Church of the Holy Spirit rings its bells every 15 minutes during the day. On Fridays, members of The Pealers, an open club on campus, use the church bells to play popular songs of their choice. Listen for Lady Gaga!  
(Right) Another place to visit is the Wiggin Street Elementary School, especially for those still nostalgic for their grade school days and kickball dynasties. The playground has all the elements of your own childhood stomping ground and is especially fun to visit in December when covered with fresh snow.

# Gallivanting Around Gambier: *Exploring the Campus*



Most Fridays at the Harcourt Parish House, members of the Gambier community offer home-baked entrees like macaroni and cheese or quiche, a soup of the week, fresh salad and an assortment of desserts—all for just six dollars. Lunch is usually offered from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Make sure to come early, because food is always delicious and goes quickly.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HOYT AND MARIKA GARLAND



(Left) Have a hankering for crafts? Head north to the College’s Craft Center, where students can participate in activities such as pottery, weaving, jewelry, knitting and woodworking. If you’re looking for more information, talk to Robin Nordmoe, who can often be found working in the College Bookstore.  
(Right) Eager to get off the Hill but don’t want to go as far as Mount Vernon? Try visiting the trails that follow the Kokosing River, just across Highway 229. Along the main trail you’ll find this railroad bridge, a holdover from when trains were the most efficient way to get to Gambier.

FIRST YEARS

Anna Berger '15

Conor Dugan '15

Tobias Uecker,  
Asst. Director of Res Life

Maddie Gobbo '12  
Mather CA

COMMUNITY ADVISORS

Gambier Grillin'

Vs

Totals:  
ResLife: 1  
First Years: 0

What kind of tree is the Upside-Down Tree?	Willow	Whomping Willow	Poplar	Willow	Weeping Birch
What is Kenyon's Alma Mater song?	I don't know	Philander's Chase	Kokosing Farewell	Kokosing Farewell	The Thrill
Who founded The Kenyon Review?	Peirce	Mather	John Crowe Ransom	I don't know	John Crowe Ransom
How long is Middle Path?	3 miles	Too long	One mile	One mile	3/5 of a mile
How many majors does Kenyon offer?	21	100	27	25	31
Total Correct	Zero	Zero	One	Zero	By DAVID HOYT



Dodgeball Tournament  
Saturday, August 27, at 2:00 p.m.  
Norton Basketball Courts  
@ The Freshman Class Clash

Relay Races  
Saturday, August 27 at 2:00 p.m.  
Freshman Quad  
@ The Freshman Class Clash



# Lords and Ladies Rush the Fields for Fall

NINA ZIMMERMAN

*Sports Editor*

The full student body hasn't yet returned to campus, but Kenyon athletics are already going strong. Football players hit the gridiron as cross country runners hit the trails and volleyball players start setting and spiking in the gym. Soccer stars dribble and kick across stretches of green as field hockey players ready their sticks for another day. From McBride Field to Mavec Field, from Tomsich Arena to the Gap Trail, Kenyon athletes are preparing to spread the purple pride.

## Football Focuses on Future

In their efforts to attain the gridiron glory that eluded them last season, the Lords football team has been hitting the field early in the day to avoid the intense heat of the sweltering summer sun. Despite last season's 0-13 record, Head Coach Ted Stanley sees promise in his team.

"I think we're coming along," Stanley said. "There's a lot of guys coming back with experience. We're a little banged up right now but I think after a couple of more practices we'll get them in the training room and we'll get our legs back and heal up and we'll be back at full strength."

Stanley also hopes that the new additions to the team, including 10 first-year students and one transfer, will pair with the veterans to fill gaps left by the class of 2011.

"We'll miss a bunch of guys on the defensive line that graduated," Stanley said. "But I think our outside backers are talented and just our linebacking group in general is really talented and experienced, and if we can get some of the young defensive linemen to come along, I think we'll be pretty good."

Along with working the new faces of Kenyon football into the meld, Stanley also knows that the veterans need to take their game to the next level



DAVID HOYT

The Lords football team can be found practicing on McBride Field starting early in the morning. The team hopes to find success in the new season.

to be as successful as they can.

"There's those guys that are in the program that need to step up," Stanley said. "They're guys that have been around and know what needs to be done and certainly we need them to take the next step. So, you know, taking a little more time and working with them to help them take the next step has been something that we've been doing already. It's starting to help and really show through."

His enthusiasm for the next season never seems to waver.

"I think a lot of people were disappointed in [our performance] last year, including ourselves," Stanley said. "This is a new year. We feel very confident in the guys that we have and the new guys that we've brought in. And we feel like we have a pretty good team here. I think there are a lot of good things ready to happen if we can just make some improvements."

## Lords XC Looks Ahead

After a season filled with strong finishes and great individual improvements, the Lords cross country team hopes

to continue running strong. Head Coach Duane Gomez was pleased with his team's seventh-place finish at the North Coast Athletic Conference Championship, followed by a 23rd-place finish at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Great Lakes Regional Championship.

"Last season the men did really well," Gomez said. "We were in the middle of the conference, so we were very strong in our region. It's still kind of a youngish team this year, and so I think they're all going to really improve. Our freshmen were kind of strong last year and they're doing good. We're looking forward to the season."

The Lords will have to do without one of last season's top runners, Matt Davis '12, whose busy schedule will not allow him to participate in cross country this year. Last season, Davis's ninth-place individual finish at the conference championships earned him a spot on the all-conference second team. Then, his performance at the regional championship earned him a spot on the all-region team,

making him the first Lord to do so in two seasons.

Overall, Gomez's hopes for his athletes this season are simple.

"I really want to see them improve, just keep improving from last year," Gomez said.

## Ladies XC Traverses Trails

The Ladies cross country team hopes to get off on the right foot for another season of off-road running.

Last October, the Ladies hustled into third place at the North Coast Athletic Conference Championship, finishing behind second-place Allegheny College and first-place Oberlin College. Then, in November, the Ladies followed up with another impressive finish at the NCAA Division III Great Lakes Regional Championship at Hope College in Michigan, finishing tenth out of 34 teams. Head Coach Duane Gomez enjoyed the success of their performances.

"The women, they were strong," Gomez said. "They

were top three on the conference and they were in the top ten in the region. We were pretty happy with that."

Even so, the Ladies will be running this season without skilled runner Lauren Metzger '11 and other seniors whose contributions to the team will be greatly missed.

"It's going to be a hard loss because we had several seniors that were with the program all the way through, so it's kind of starting all over with the women," Gomez said. "But we have a really nice group of women who will do fine."

Though consistently improving their performance is the main focus for the athletes, Gomez also wants them to enjoy themselves and their performance.

"Individual improvement is always the main thing and just being a really close team," Gomez said. "We start out fun, the preseason is really good. So we're just looking forward to all that."

## Volleyball Gears Up

Head Volleyball Coach Katie Charles spent the summer working at volleyball camps across the country, where she picked up new techniques that she hopes will aid the Ladies as they head back to the court. They hope to have another exciting season like the last one, when their overall record of 13-16 was their best since 2005.

"We're hoping to build on that this year," Charles said. "I worked camps at Stanford, Villanova and Columbia [Universities], with the chance to learn from some really great coaches and a chance to continue some of our recruiting process."

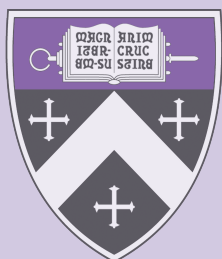
The entire team from last year is returning to spur on the Ladies again. Charles sees it as a testament to the program's growth and accomplishments.

"We return everybody this year because this will be the first year we've had seniors," Charles said. "And we'll have six seniors on the team this year, and we're actually really excited about that. This is the group that helped us, that showed up to play here when we literally could not field a team."

Charles also puts a lot of faith in the ability and drive that her three captains, Crystal Piras '12, Mary Myers '12 and Laura Harris '12, show on and off the court.

"They really do a great job of leading this group," Charles said. "And they did a nice job over the summer of reaching out to all of the new athletes that are coming in and making them feel like a part of the team before they got here. So we feel like we're going to start off with a strong bond for the season."

*Next week's Collegian will feature season previews of men's soccer, women's soccer and field hockey*



## Interested in working for the *Collegian*?

We need reporters, designers, copy editors, illustrators and photographers!

Contact us at [kenyoncollegian@gmail.com](mailto:kenyoncollegian@gmail.com) for more information,

or join us for an introductory meeting Sept. 4th at 5:00 p.m. in Philomathesian Hall (2nd Floor Ascension).

